Amendment   Docket No. PHFR000090
Serial No. 09/942,017

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Kindly replace the ABSTRACT with the following:

Data processing method is ~~effected~~ disclosed for processing ~~in~~ a series of temporal processing steps [S]. The method comprises a ~~A~~ processing step [S(n)] that generates a result [O(n)] on the basis of a set of results [O(n-1), O(n-2), ... O(n-m)] of certain preceding processing steps [S(n-1), S(n-2), ... S(n-m)][[.]], wherein the ~~An example of such a data processing is the contextual arithmetic decoding which forms part of the MPEG4 standard.~~

~~The following characteristic features enable implementations to be realized at comparatively low cost.~~ A processing step [S] is performed in two sub-steps: a preparation sub-step [SA] and finishing sub-step [SB]. In the preparation sub-step [SA] an intermediate result [I] is determined on the basis of an incomplete set of results in which, ~~in comparison with the set of results on the basis of which the result is to be calculated,~~ at least the result of the nearest preceding processing step is missing. In the finishing sub-step [SB] the result [O] is determined on the basis of the intermediate result [I] and the result of the nearest preceding processing step and other results which are missing in the incomplete set of results, ~~if any.~~

~~Fig. 1~~